

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 29, 2005 has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for his detailed remarks. As properly noted by the Examiner claims 32-40 are the only ones remaining in this case. All of the claims have been amended to comply with the Examiner's concerns. In particular, claims 32 and 33 have been amended to become base claims from which the others depend. No claims are canceled herein. No new claims have been added herein.

The Examiner's concerns as to the metes and bounds of the claims have been addressed through appropriate amendment of the claims. The claims now appropriately describe the invention and have appropriate chains of dependency from base claims 32 and 33.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the September 30, 2002 Office Action, though the Examiner announced a Restriction Requirement with regard to the claims and required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. §121, Applicants have made an election with traverse at that time relative to the transgenic production of PDGF through microinjection related techniques.

On January 14, 2003, after reviewing the Applicant's traverse the Examiner made this Restriction Requirement final. The pending claims reflect these changes.

Claim Objections

Applicants thank the Examiner for his comments regarding the informalities present in claims 1, 7-8, 11 and 14. In response the Applicants have withdrawn these claims, respectfully mooted the Examiner's concerns. With regard to any similarities in the current claims, these have been addressed through specific amendments to each of the relevant claims. These amendments were made to clarify, particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Reconsideration of the objections to the effected claims is respectfully requested.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Given the status of the amended claims the arguments traversing any 35 USC § 112, first paragraph rejection are again provided relative to claims 32-40.

Applicant would like to respectfully point out that in a broad sense the novelty of the patent lies, as expected, in the novel manipulation and engineering of the transgenic mammal and the production and secretion of a physiologically active growth factor in a transgenic animal. That is, the production of PDGF in a living animal has been developed despite the effects that a growth factor may initiate in living tissue. This manner of production is quite distinct from in vitro efforts seen previously, as will be discussed in more detail below. The fact that the prior art did not contemplate the type or degree of genetic manipulation provided for by Applicants, while the Applicants provide and claim a working example and a written protocol of such is the precise reason why the current application is patentable -- it is novel.

The working protocols disclosed in the specification, provide those in the field with the ability to practice the invention, by providing a detailed map leading towards a goal that the Applicant clearly lays out, regardless of the state of the art prior to the application. In conjunction with the extremely high level of skill in the field, it is clear that the specification, as tempered by the relevant caselaw discussed herein provides more than adequate guidance to make and use the invention. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, at 496. This along with the Federal Circuit's repeated assertions that in the field of biotechnology the level of skill in the art is necessarily a high one, indicates that the enablement requirements for the instant claims be determined not by the public at large but by scientists already trained in many of the basics of the technology and well-versed in standard protocols. Ajinomoto Co., Inc. v. Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., 228 F.3d 1338, 1340 (Fed. Cir. 2000) ("Patents, however, are written to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, not the public"); Enzo Biochem v. Calgene, Inc., 188 F.3d 1362 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

Given the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is traversed, and reconsideration of the claims is, respectfully, requested.

Claims 32 through 40 are variously dependent upon independent base claims 1, 8, 11 or 14. Each of these base independent claims has been amended in response to the Examiner's concerns. As they retain all the elements of the base claim from which they depend they should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Applicants therefore respectfully request favorable consideration claims 32-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, in view of the above amendments and remarks.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) has been withdrawn due to an uncertainty over the invention being taught. Applicants note this difficulty and provide that it has been remedied through the current amendments to the claims. In an effort to expedite prosecution Applicant provides arguments for allowance of the claims despite an expected rejection based on Houdebine et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,965,788 hereinafter the '788 patent), in view of Eichner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,665,567 hereinafter the '567 patent), and Hart et al. (Science 240:1529-21, 1988; hereinafter the Hart reference).

As previously noted, the basic considerations which apply to obviousness rejections under MPEP § 2141 are as follows:

- (1) the claimed invention must be considered as a whole;
- (2) the references must be considered as a whole and must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination;
- (3) the references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed invention; and
- (4) reasonable expectation of success is the standard by which obviousness is determined.

When the prior art itself fails to meet even one of the above criteria the cited art does not satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and prevents the establishment of the required *prima facie* case of obviousness by the Examiner. In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed.

Cir. 1992); In re Rijckaert, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir. 1993). As pointed out below, the prior art not only fails to provide the suggestion, or incentive to combine, but also fails to provide any reasonable expectation of success for the piecemeal combination of the prior art into something resembling the instant invention.

Houdebine et al.

Houdebine et al. discloses a conventional method of producing a transgenic animal, but neither claims the production of a Growth Factor such as PDGF, nor offers any specific teaching with regard to this type of molecule in a whole animal setting. Moreover, though the '788 patent and the current claims are tasked to providing a solution to similar problems, the solutions each provides is significantly different, as is reflected in the amended base claims of the current application. Also of note is the fact (acknowledged by the Examiner in the January 14, 2003 Office Action – page 10) that Houdebine simply fails to teach PDGF specifically either in its production in a transgenic animal or its production in an animal in a physiologically active form. Thus, Houdebine et al. fails to render obvious the instant invention, and therefore independent amended claims 32 and 33 simply cannot be obvious over Houdebine et al. standing alone.

Eichner et al. does not provide what Houdebine et al. lacks. In the Office Action of January 14, 2003 the Examiner stated that given the Houdebine, Eichner and Hart citations that “the claimed invention as a whole was *prima facie* obvious” (Office Action of January 14, 2003, page 13, 1st paragraph). However, this ignores the activities of those skilled in the art at the time of this invention, and is contrary to the level of skill present in the art. The Examiner concedes that Houdebine does not disclose and is in fact silent with regard to:

does not discuss or provide any guidance with regard to the inclusion of any
nucleic acid construct in the cells of a host transgenic mammal leading to
the expression of a biologically active construct of PDGF; and

fails to mention any teaching with regard to the expression or recovery of any
physiologically active PDGF from the milk of transgenic mammals.

Eichner et al.,

Eichner does not make up for these deficiencies. Instead *Eichner et al.*, provides a primer on the production of DNA constructs in an *in vitro* system and the negligible production of a growth factor in mammalian cell *in vitro* conditions. It should also be noted that Eichner is providing for the production of PDGF only in an *in vitro* system and not the vastly more complex milieu of a live animal or specific tissues within that animal. It should be reiterated that the system of the invention is a transgenic living mammal, it is highly unlikely that anyone in the field of transgenics would look to a reference promoting the intracellular production and accumulation of PDGF in *in vitro* cell culture protocols or procedures for guidance on how to allow or optimize the production of an active PDGF in a whole animal secretory expression system (see Eichner, - Methods). In this light *Eichner et al.*, is simply non-analogous art incapable of supporting an obviousness rejection of the instant claims, or even making itself available for such a combination. There are simply no teachings to allow the methods of *Eichner et al.*, to make themselves available for an artisan in the field of transgenic mammals. *Eichner et al.*, fails to provide any discussion of any expression system other than *in vitro* cell culture conditions and in this way fails to understand or make obvious the true nature of the instant invention – the systematic use of a wide variety of molecular biology tools to overcome a panoply of expression problems for active PDGF in a transgenic animal system. Given this, the *Eichner et al.* reference is simply inapposite to the invention at hand and fails to provide a disclosure capable of sustaining an obviousness rejection of the instant claims alone or in any combination.

Respectfully, the Examiner must provide more than an odd collection of references that recast known technology. The Examiner must provide references that *knowingly* suggest the combination of protocols, tests, or principles, which will lead to the invention to be rendered obvious, and read upon its claims. The Examiner has not provided these references. Rather the Examiner has suggested that the instant claims are essentially within the purview of ordinary skill. Without more, this is a classic reproduction of the invention from improper hindsight, which cannot be used to negative patentability or establish the required case of *prima facie* obviousness. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 1075, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

The important point here is that with regard to the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), it should be pointed out that to support the combination of various sources to create an

obviousness rejection those sources must themselves specifically contain or objectively suggest to the skilled artisan a combination of art to achieve the invention. To allow anything less would be to render 35 U.S.C. §103(a) a subjective measure of patentability without any parameters or objective standards. This is what the Federal Circuit has squarely decided against in its statements about the improper application of hindsight to sustain an obviousness rejection. This is why the disclosures drawn upon by an Examiner must explicitly contain all the necessary techniques and suggest the combination that would lead to the invention as claimed. In re Dillon, 919 F.2d at 696, 16 USPQ2d at 1904 (Fed. Cir. 1990)(*en banc*); In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Geiger, 815 F.2d 686, 2 USPQ2d 1276, 1278 (Fed. Cir. 1987). This the three cited references do not do. Respectfully, it is thus the objective measure of obviousness that the prior art cited of record is incapable of supporting, thus preventing the maintenance of a 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

Moreover, the invention of the Appellants required a systematic understanding of the host of problems seen before in the prior art and a novel way of using a variety of complex tools to produce the raw material for a new class of molecule produced in a novel way. Something which quite simply had not been done before, or reduced to practice. Prior to the elegant solution provided by the Appellants the common practice of those skilled in the art was to attempt production of growth factors in an active form or to attempt expression at extremely low levels.

The Examiner's previous analysis thus inappropriately based its rejection on the use of *Eichner et al.*, on the premise that one expression system and all of the interplay in the various tools used to achieve expression of a target protein or protein fragment is like another, and that therefore any cellular expression system with any given target protein is an appropriate and analogous prior art reference for the claimed invention of another such expression system. However, as the Federal Circuit has stated, "[t]wo criteria are relevant in determining whether prior art is analogous: (1) whether the art is from the same field of endeavor, regardless of the problem addressed, and (2) if the art is not within the same field of endeavor, whether it is still reasonably pertinent to a particular problem to be solved," Wang Laboratories, Inc. v. Toshiba Corp. 26 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1767, 1773 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *see also*, In re Clay, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1058, 1060 (Fed. Cir. 1992); (The Wang court found that a prior art reference for using a nine bit controller consisting of nine memory chips encapsulated in ceramic dual in-line packages mounted on a circuit board substrate is not in the

same field of endeavor as the claimed nine data memory chips for storing digital data on epoxy glass printed circuit board substrate merely because it relates to memories). Id. The Court further let stand a lower Court finding that the prior art reference was not analogous art and was not reasonably pertinent, i.e. the art would not logically have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his problem. Wang at 1773, and Clay at 1061.

The relevance of the Wang analysis to the instant matter lies in the fact that the Eichner reference is not only silent with regard to transgenic animals but rather focuses and provides teaching with regard only to simple expression in eukaryotes – essentially teaching away from the methods required to achieve success in the expression of growth factor sequences in transgenic animals. Respectfully, the concerns for expression of growth factor sequences through various vectors, in prokaryotes or eukaryotes, is an entirely different problem, with an entirely different set of concerns and hurdles preventing success than those inherent in the instant invention. (See Eichner, Discussion, and the Abstract). Thus, though Eichner might contemplate the use of similar sequences as those provided in the instant specification, the problem addressed and the solution provided by Eichner *et al.*, have little or nothing to do with the myriad of expression problems overcome by the instant claims, therefore falling outside the scope of appropriate art, and making itself unavailable for combination with Houdebine or Hart to render them amended claims obvious.

In a similar situation, the Federal Circuit concluded that as between a method and apparatus in which film is transferred to a welding station and a tape splicing machine capable of handling the same film, “[in] the light of all this evidence, one can reasonably conclude that the reference is not within the field of this inventor's endeavor and was not directly pertinent to a particular problem with which the inventor was involved.” King Instrument Corp. v. Otari Corp., 226 U.S.P.Q. 402, 405 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *see also*, Union Carbide Corp. v. American Can Co., 220 U.S.P.Q. 584, 588 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

As in the King and Wang situations, the instant claimed invention is directed to features, methods and solutions of problems which are alien and non-analogous to the prior art cited by the Examiner. Therefore the teachings of Eichner *et al.*, are not pertinent to the claimed invention and cannot render it obvious.

Hart et al. also fails to provide what the Houdebine and Eichner references lack. Hart teaches a the presence of multiple isoforms of the PDGF molecule, but utterly fails to provide a transgenic or whole method of how these isoforms can be effectively expressed, secreted or collected for therapeutic use. Therefore, it does not and cannot make up for the deficiencies

found in the prior cited art.

Accordingly, as in *Wang* and *King*, one must conclude that *Eichner et al.* is not within the field of this inventor's endeavor and is not pertinent in any way to the particular problems solved by the invention as provided in the amended claims. Appellants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the Rejection of the amended claims 32-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houdebine et al., in view of *Eichner et al.* and Hart et al.

Other than a fee for the extension of time no fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may now or hereafter be due for this application to GTC Biotherapeutics' Deposit Account No. 502092.

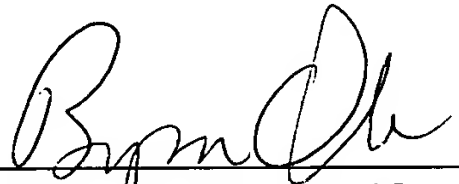
Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and that this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1/24/00

By:


Byron V. Olsen, Reg. No. 42,960
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT
GTC Biotherapeutics, Inc.
175 Crossing Blvd., Suite 410
Framingham, MA 01702
Tel. # (508) 661-8150
Fax # (508) 370-3797